

**5.1 - Introduction**

As a new city, it is important for Milton to protect its valuable natural resources. In order to take the proper measures to maintain Milton’s rural character and the high quality of life associated with that aspect of the City, it is important to identify and inventory these resources: public water sources, water supply watersheds; groundwater recharge areas, wetlands, rivers, lakes and ponds, floodplains, soils, steep slopes, prime agricultural and forest lands, other green spaces, equestrian areas, plant and animal habitats, major parks, recreation and conservation areas, and scenic views and sites. As Milton moves forward as a distinct city, it must work diligently to preserve its largely exurban nature within the context of a rapidly growing Fulton County and Atlanta Metropolitan Region. The purpose of this section of the City of Milton 2028 Comprehensive Plan is to inventory those natural and cultural resources which play a vital role in the prosperity of the City of Milton and will continue to do so in the future.

The City of Milton’s citizenry are passionate about their natural and cultural resources and view their historic and cultural assets, rolling pastures, woodlands, river valleys, small wetlands, small lakes, and undeveloped green spaces as being among the most important assets of the City. These assets include the natural character of the land for its value in maintaining clean water and clean air, recreation opportunities, and agricultural resources. By cataloguing these resources and educating the public of their significance, City officials hope to embed a lasting respect for them in residents and developers.

**5.2 - Environmental Planning Criteria**

**Water Supply Watersheds**

Table 5-1 shows water supply watersheds within the City of Milton. Most of Milton lies within the Etowah (Cooper-Sandy Creek) Watershed basin, which is not a public water supply watershed. Parts of the City near Alpharetta fall within the Chattahoochee River (Big Creek) Watershed, as shown on Map 5-1.

**TABLE 5-1: Water Supply Watersheds, City of Milton**

<b>Watershed Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Classification</b>
Chattahoochee River (Big Creek)	Southern and southeastern Milton into Alpharetta	Small water supply watershed

The City of Milton must comply with the Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria for Small Water Supply Watersheds, Chapter 391-3-16.01(7), as established by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division.

**Wetlands**

The City of Milton has significant wetland areas which must be protected under Chapter 391-3-16.03, Criteria for Wetlands Protection, of the Georgia DNR EPD Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria. According to the DNR, “Wetlands” mean “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.”

Wetlands are important natural resources as plant and animal habitat areas and offer aesthetic and other benefits to the community. Therefore, the City of Milton should make all possible efforts to protect its wetlands. Map 5-2 shows wetlands within the City of Milton.

### **Groundwater Recharge Areas**

Some areas along the City's border with the City of Alpharetta are significant groundwater recharge areas. These areas must be protected according to the Georgia DNR EPD Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria Chapter 391-3-16.02, Criteria for Protection of Groundwater Recharge Areas.

A groundwater recharge area is a surface land area where water that enters an aquifer is first absorbed into the ground. Groundwater recharge areas replenish underground water and are generally areas of level topography. Consequently, these areas are valuable for development. Most of the locations identified as being significant groundwater recharge areas in the City of Milton are currently developed or in rapidly developing areas. Much of the area of Milton near the Alpharetta and Roswell borders are areas of significant groundwater recharge.

Many of the homes in Milton obtain drinking water from wells and use septic systems. The Fulton County Health Department inspects and approves sites and issues well construction permits. Once a well is permitted, the owner is responsible for ensuring protective measures against contamination. Additionally, communities that are not served by sewer utilize septic systems for waste collection and treatment. Fulton County offers septic tank educational programs to assist in the reduction of local bacteria in streams.

### **Protected Rivers**

This section includes protected rivers and river corridors as defined and provided for in the Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria. In the DNR's Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria, "Protected River" means any perennial river or watercourse with an average annual flow of at least 400 cubic feet per second as determined by appropriate U.S. Geological Survey documents. However, those segments of rivers covered by the Metropolitan River Protection Act or the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act are specifically excluded from the definition of a protected river. River Corridors are the strips of land that flank major rivers. These corridors are of vital importance in order to preserve those qualities that make a river suitable as a habitat for wildlife, a site for recreation and a source for clean drinking water. River corridors also allow the free movement of wildlife from area to area within the state, help control erosion and river sedimentation, and help absorb flood waters.

One protected river flows through the City of Milton: the Little River (shown on Map 5-1). The Little River runs along the city boundary with Cherokee County. This river flows into the Etowah River in Cherokee and Northeastern Cobb.

#### *Soil and Sedimentation Control Model Ordinance*

The State's model ordinance applies specifically to protection of rivers and streams not under the protection guidelines of the Metropolitan River Protection Act (MRPA). It serves as a guide for local governments to incorporate the use of vegetative buffers for developments up gradient from streams and tributaries. This model ordinance specifically applies to the Little River and any other applicable waterways, where all developments are required to incorporate 25-foot undisturbed vegetative buffers along the Little River.

### **Protected Mountains**

There are no Protected Mountains within the City of Milton.

### **5.3 - Other Environmentally Sensitive Areas**

#### **Public Water Supply Sources**

Milton has abundant and valuable natural resources including streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands. All of these natural water features within the City support a wide variety of uses for its citizens, from drinking water to recreation to irrigation. Additionally, water provides wildlife habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial animals. Both animals and humans depend on a clean water source for survival. Therefore, the forces that impact the health of local water supply are important to understand.

Much of Milton's drinking water comes from smaller tributaries such as Big Creek (located within and supplying water to the City of Roswell). Because the Atlanta Region is underlain with granite, there are few groundwater aquifers to provide drinking water through wells. Some residents in the Little River watershed in Milton get their drinking water from wells.

The City of Milton does not have drinking water intake within its city limits. However, there is one drinking water intake within seven miles of Milton inside the city limits of Roswell, as shown on Map 5-1.

#### **Coastal Resources**

There are no coastal areas within the City of Milton.

#### **Flood Plains**

Floodplains are areas that are subject to flooding based on the 100-year, or base, flood. Floodplains are environmentally-sensitive and significant areas which are vulnerable to impacts of development activities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the Federal Agency which administers the National Flood Insurance Program. This agency prepares, revises, and distributes the floodplain maps and duties adopted by the City of Milton from Article IV, Section 24 of Fulton County's Zoning Resolution for Floodplain Management. The purpose of floodplain management is to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas by implementing provisions designed to promote public health, safety, and general welfare. In Milton, floodplains are primarily located along Camp Creek, Chicken Creek, Cooper Sandy Creek, and the Little River (Map 5-3).

#### **Steep Slopes**

This section discusses steep slopes, other than protected mountains, where the slope of the land is steep enough to warrant special management practices. Steep slopes are important for their scenic quality and for their hazard potential due to erosion or slippage. The City of Milton identifies slopes greater than 25% as steep slopes. Steep slopes greater than 15% in Milton are scattered primarily along rivers. Milton's topography can be seen on Map 5-4.

Steep slopes are unique natural areas. Ravines and steep hillsides often provide impressive scenic views. Vegetation in steep slopes provides not only wildlife habitat but also natural beauty. Wildlife exists in relative safety due to the limited accessibility of such sites. The naturally occurring vegetation on such sites also stabilizes the slopes, preventing severe erosion or landslides. In addition, such slopes often serve as natural boundaries and buffers between land uses or districts in a community. Changing the character of a slope can thus bring adjacent incompatible land uses into more direct conflict.

Although the City of Milton does not have a separate steep slope ordinance, the City did adopt the existing ordinances protecting steep slopes that had been created by Fulton County. An

“Ordinance establishing Standards for Protection of Steep Slopes and Grading Activity within Unincorporated Fulton County, Georgia; Providing Procedures for Land Disturbance Permits” was adopted by the County in 2006. Contiguous land areas greater than 5,000-SF in size are required to adhere to the following table:

TABLE 5-2 - Slope Development Restrictions		
Slope Category	Illustration of slope type (Rise over Run)	Development Restrictions
Greater than 33% but less than 40%	3.4 ft. rise over 10-ft run = (34%) slope	Building and site preparation may not occur unless a plan is submitted by a design professional of record (licensed professional engineer or landscape architect) and approved by the Department. The plan must meet the requirements of this ordinance (Section 8). The plan must indicate design/construction techniques that will not have adverse environmental impacts as determined by the Department.
40% or greater	4.0 ft. rise over 10ft. run = (40%) slope	Land disturbing activity shall not be conducted in areas containing 40% or greater slopes unless a variance is granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals (except detention ponds and water quality features are allowed on slopes not exceeding 50%)

The City also enforces slope stability during new development activities through the adoption of Section 26-39 (B) Minimum Requirements of Fulton County’s Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Ordinance (adopted by the City of Milton) enforces slopes during new development activities as follows:

- All slopes shall be stabilized immediately and shall remain so for a period of no less than one year from the issuance of the project’s final certificate of occupancy and/or the recording of a final plat,
- All slopes greater than or equal to 2H:1V must be permanently stabilized with a structural or vegetative practice, and
- A plan must be submitted to demonstrate that all slopes associated with fill/cut sections have been adequately designed by structural (retaining wall, earthen berm, etc.) or vegetative or Best Management Practices (erosion mat/blanket, tree bark mulch, etc.) Such analysis, reports, or design shall be prepared and approved by a registered engineer.

Steep slopes are enforced through the Best Management Practices (BMPs) during construction. These areas present special concerns for development or building. Alteration of steeply sloped grades may result in excessive runoff, erosion, or hillside slippage. Such effects pose a danger not only to the property owner, but also to adjacent property owners.

**Soils**

The following soil types are present in the City of Milton:

*Congaree-Chewacla-Wickham*- These soil types are present throughout Milton primarily along rivers. Along larger rivers, this area is characterized by well-drained slopes. Along smaller rivers, drainage is somewhat poor due to the build-up of sediment and the presence of vegetation.

*Cecil-Lloyd-Appling*- This soil type is present throughout northeast Milton (east of Chicken Creek) and northwest Milton (west of Birmingham Highway and north of Batesville Road). This

area is characterized by rolling and hilly uplands. This soil is subject to moderate to severe erosion.

*Madison-Louisa-* These soil types are present in southwest Milton (south of Chicken Creek and west of Birmingham Highway). They are found along steep V-shaped valleys and sharp ridges and are well drained.

*Lloyd-Cecil-Madison-* These soil types are present throughout the central area of Milton from the northern to the southern boundaries. They are well-drained and are associated with rolling and hilly uplands.

*Appling-Cecil-* These soils are present in southeastern Milton in the area around Alpharetta’s North Park. These soils are well-drained and occur in hilly uplands primarily used for pasturelands.

**Plant and Animal Habitats**

The U.S Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service defines habitat as a combination of environmental factors that provides food, water, cover, and space that living beings need to survive and reproduce. Habitat types include: coastal and estuarine, rivers and streams, lakes and ponds, wetlands, riparian areas, deserts, grasslands/prairie, forests, coral reefs, marine, perennial snow and ice, and urban areas. Table 5-2 lists plant and animal species native to the City of Milton and Fulton County and generally present in North Georgia which are or may be endangered.

TABLE 5-3: Endangered Plant and Animal Species, City of Milton	
Animal	Plant
Red-cockaded woodpecker (E)	Piedmont barren strawberry (SR)
Bald Eagle (E)	Pink lady’s slipper (SPS)
Indiana bat (E)	Yellow lady’s slipper (SPS)
Bachman’s sparrow (SR)	False hellebore (SPS)
	Bar star-vine (SPS)
E=Endangered Species SR=Status Review- these species are not legally protected under the Endangered Species Act; however it is appreciated if land disturbance activities can avoid impacting them. SPS=State Protected Species	
Source: U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Ecological Services, Brunswick, Georgia.	

The City of Milton lies within the boundaries of the Etowah basin. The Etowah Aquatic Habitat Conservation Plan identifies ten imperiled aquatic species: nine fishes (three of which are listed as Federal endangered species) and one caddisfly. While none of these species is known to be present within the City of Milton’s waters, Milton’s location within the Etowah basin should push the City to protect the watershed.

**Other Significant Sensitive Areas**

The City of Milton has significant natural resources and must work to protect them in the future. Milton’s rural landscape is currently being threatened by new developments in previously-undeveloped parts of the City.

## **5.4 - Significant Natural Resources**

### **Scenic Areas**

In the largely rural areas of Milton, north of Crabapple, the landscape lends itself to pastoral settings and rural agricultural views. These vistas are being threatened by largely unchecked development throughout rural Milton. Although the City of Milton does not contain any State designated Scenic Byways, protection of the rural character of the area is an important element of the 2028 Comprehensive Plan.

Milton's pastoral landscapes must be preserved if the City wishes to maintain its rural character. The City of Milton 2028 Comprehensive Plan identifies large portions of Milton as scenic areas which should be protected in order to promote the City's goal of "embracing small-town life and heritage while preserving and enhancing the City's rural character".

### **Agricultural Land**

As Fulton County and the Atlanta Region have grown and developed, Milton has remained largely rural due to its location away from railroads and most expressways. Milton is home to a relatively large amount of agricultural land because of this unique situation within metropolitan Atlanta. Milton is home to a thriving equestrian community and hopes to foster continued maintenance and growth of this aspect of the City.

While most farms in Milton are horse farms, the City is also home to some other types of livestock farms, such as chicken and cattle as well as horticultural farms.

### **Forest Land**

The City of Milton, like many other areas in the Piedmont, has lush vegetation. As the population continues to grow, land disturbance activity continues, and land becomes urbanized, the ecological value of urban trees as an important conservation measure becomes more recognized. Though it is inherently understood that trees improve the environment, until recently it was difficult to quantify these effects. Trees are an indicator of environmental quality because of their ability to moderate the effects of urbanization on air, water, and energy. Additionally, urban forests help mitigate the effects of stormwater runoff and reduce air temperature.

When the tree canopy is plentiful and healthy, including those that line streets and cover parking lots, the less impervious surface there is, the better the soil structure is and the greater the environmental benefits they provide. The aesthetic beauty that tree canopies provide enhances the physical environment by providing an appealing view to the urban and suburban landscape and at the same time providing a viable habitat for native wildlife.

Trees provide communities with many valuable services with quantifiable cost benefits. These include: mature trees, improved appearance of new development, a slowing of stormwater runoff and increased peak flow, improved air quality, reduced summer energy needs resulting from direct shading of trees, and reduced temperatures, which further reduces energy consumption and air pollution.

Because it has remained relatively rural because of its location away from railroads and expressways, Milton is home to a large number of trees, and while their presence as part of the City's natural landscape is a significant asset to Milton, the City now faces the threat of clear cutting associated with development.

### **Programs, Rules, and Regulations**

#### *Conservation Valuation*

The State of Georgia provides a program to encourage land conservation and agricultural uses by reducing the amount of taxes paid. In the Use Valuation of Conservation Use Properties program, land is assessed by a formula that considers the income potential of the land based on productivity. Under this program, land is usually assessed at 5% of its value. A conservation use valuation is granted for ten years for agricultural, forestry, and environmentally sensitive lands. The purchase of development rights and a conservation easement on a property will also reduce the value of the parcel. When a property's development rights have been encumbered by a conservation easement, then the land is assessed on its intrinsic value, such as agricultural productivity. Any property owner wishing to apply for the conservation use assessment can do so through the Fulton County Tax Assessor's Office. The decision to grant preferential tax assessment for both programs rests with the five-member Board of Assessors. There are 139 parcels in Milton which are participants in this program, as shown in Table 5-3 and Map 5-5.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Number of Parcels</b>	<b>Average Size</b>	<b>Maximum Size</b>	<b>Total Acreage</b>
City of Milton	139	15.44 acres	80.0 acres	2145.48

Source: Fulton County Tax Assessor's Office

#### *Conservation Subdivision Ordinance*

Conservation subdivision ordinances are created to “insure preservation of open space within residential developments; provide flexibility to allow for creativity in developments; minimize the environmental and visual impacts of new development on critical natural resources and historically and culturally significant sites and structures; provide an interconnected network of permanent open space; encourage a more efficient form of development that consumes less open land and conforms to existing topography and natural features; reduce erosion and sedimentation by minimizing land disturbance and removal of vegetation; enhance the community character; permit clustering of houses and structures which will reduce the amount of infrastructure, including paved surfaces and utility lines; encourage street design that controls traffic speeds and creates street inter-connectivity; and promote construction of convenient and accessible walking trails and bike paths both within a subdivision and connected to neighboring communities, businesses and facilities to reduce reliance on automobiles”, as stated in Fulton County's Conservation Subdivision Ordinance.

The City of Milton does not have a Conservation Subdivision Ordinance. The City of Milton could explore the idea of conservation subdivisions as a means of preserving greenspace **in a way that ensures that higher density would not be a direct result.**

#### *Metropolitan River Protection Act (MRPA)*

In 1973, the Georgia General Assembly enacted the Metropolitan River Protection Act (Georgia Code 12-5-440) to address development pressure near and pollution of the Chattahoochee River. Under this legislation, the Act established a 2,000-foot river corridor on both banks of the River and its impoundments, including stream beds and islands. The Chattahoochee River Corridor has established vulnerability standards based upon the character of the land, buffer zone standards (50 foot undisturbed – natural, 35 foot undisturbed – streams, 150-foot impervious surface setback) and floodplain standards.

The Act also required the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) to adopt a plan to protect the water resources of the River Corridor and develop procedures to implement the Act, especially review of development proposals. The City of Milton, along with other jurisdictions, implement the Act via land use controls, permitting, monitoring of land disturbing activities and enforcing other provisions of the Act.

*Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District*

In response to significant current and projected water demands, the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District was established on April 5, 2001 (2001 S.B. 130). The general purposes of the District are to establish policy, create plans, and promote intergovernmental coordination for all water issues in the district; to facilitate multi-jurisdictional water related projects; and to enhance access to funding for water related projects among local governments in the district area. The purposes of the District are to develop regional and watershed-specific plans for stormwater management, wastewater treatment, water supply, water conservation, and the general protection of water quality. These plans will be implemented by local governments in a 16-county area. In October 2002, the District adopted the following model ordinances:

- Ordinance for Post-Development Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment,
- Floodplain Management/Flood Damage Preservation,
- Stream Buffer Protection,
- Conservation Subdivision/Open Space Development,
- Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection, and
- Litter Control.

*Soil and Erosion Control*

The City of Milton adopted the Fulton County Soil and Erosion Control Ordinance, which exceeds the Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975 and seeks to promote proper planning for land disturbance activities. Fulton County's Erosion and Sedimentation Control (E&SC) program implemented a "Zero Tolerance" approach to E&SC for sustaining controlled development and maintaining water quality. This approach requires a collaborative effort of County employees outside of erosion enforcement, citizens, County Commissioners, and an increased number of staff members to conduct the enforcement. State-of-the-art erosion control practices, such as phase development and green space implementation are becoming commonplace in Fulton County and are stressed in the planning stages of projects. The City of Milton should work to continue the efforts of Fulton County and seek to minimize the effects of soil and erosion control on Milton's natural environment.

*Water Conservation*

After several years of severe drought in Georgia, drinking water reservoirs are at critically low levels and strict outdoor watering bans have been put into place by the State. As of November 2007 the Georgia DNR EPD has placed a complete ban on most residential water uses such as watering of lawns. City of Milton Ordinance No. 07-10-49 was passed to comply with the EPD resolution. As one of our most valuable and important resources, the City must protect its water supply and work to conserve water. The City of Milton must continue to conserve water both in times of drought and normal conditions.

*Stream Buffer Ordinance*

The City of Milton adopted Fulton County's regulations for wider stream buffers in compliance with the North Georgia Water Planning District mandate. The Fulton County Stream Buffer

Ordinance was adopted by the Board of Commissioners on May 4, 2005. The regulations require undisturbed buffers and impervious surface setbacks to adjacent streams. Streams in all watersheds within Milton shall require a minimum 50-foot undisturbed buffer on each side of the stream, as measured from top of bank. An additional 25-foot setback shall be maintained adjacent to the undisturbed buffer in which all impervious cover shall be prohibited. Stormwater retention or detention facilities are prohibited within the stream channel.

*Tree Preservation Ordinance*

The City of Milton Tree Preservation Ordinance exists as an adopted Fulton County Tree Ordinance, which was enacted in 1985 and recently amended in 2002. The Ordinance attempts to balance the needs of a growing community with the need to protect green space. The Ordinance provides standards for tree preservation during land development, building construction and timber harvesting. The Ordinance requires the approval of the County Arborist before any specimen trees can be cut down. As part of the land disturbance permit (LDP) application process, tree protection and landscape plans must be submitted to the County Arborist for review and approval. Each site is walked by the Arborist and visited periodically during land disturbance activities. In addition, the LDP is not issued until the Arborist approves the submitted tree protection plan. The ordinance requires recompense for specimen trees that are cut down by planting or monetary contribution to a tree bank.

**Major Parks**

*Providence Park*

41.76 acres; Located off Providence Road just west of Hopewell Road in southern Milton. This park has been closed for environmental reasons.

*New Birmingham Park*

201.82 acres; Located on Hickory Flat Road in the northwest part of the Birmingham Crossroads Area. This park is currently undeveloped.

*Bell Memorial Park*

14.04 acres; Located on Bell Park Road off Thompson Road just east of the intersection with Cogburn Road. The Hopewell Youth Association currently maintains this park.

**Recreation Areas**

Golf Courses and Country Clubs

- Alpharetta Country Club
- Atlanta National Golf Course
- The Champions Club of Atlanta
- Crooked Creek Golf Course
- Echelon (Georgia Tech Club)
- Manor Golf Country Club
- White Columns Country Club

Athletic Facilities

- Birmingham Methodist Church Baseball Field
  - Milton High School
  - Northwestern Middle School
  - Stars Soccer Club
- Numerous neighborhood recreation facilities exist within the City which serve residents.

Private Equestrian Facilities

There are many private equestrian facilities of various sizes within the City of Milton.

### **Other Significant Resources**

The City of Milton views its rural natural landscape as among its most significant resource. There are no significant known mining or lumber harvesting operations within the City.

## **5.5 - Significant Cultural Resources**

### **Historic Landmarks**

The 1996 Fulton County Historic Survey identified over 200 historic structures, including some within the City of Milton. The 1996 Survey is incorporated by reference as the appropriate list of historic landmarks. Some specific examples that have been identified by the City are included in the following discussions. The sites below are not intended to be a comprehensive list (See Map 5-6).

#### *Birmingham Crossroads*

Several original buildings remain in the area, including the old Buice's Store, now an antique shop. Two buildings were moved and renovated due to efforts of the Birmingham Hopewell Alliance and are now located on the southwest corner.

#### *Thomas B. Newton House*

Located at Birmingham Crossroads—Sometime after the Civil War, Thomas B. Newton, Jr. bought the house and used it as a hotel for travelers and a stagecoach stop. Newton was a high school teacher, coach, and an oral historian.

#### *Birmingham Methodist Church*

The initial church dates back to 1835, first known as Darter Chapel, named after Jeremy Darter, a physician, merchant, and congregational preacher in the community. New church built in 1941 and still stands today.

#### *Crabapple Crossroads*

This area was settled in the 1830s after the last gold lottery. One of the early pioneers, Nancy Jane Broadwell suggested the name "Crabapple" for the first school, which was built in a grove of crabapple trees in 1874. The Crabapple Baptist Church was formed in 1892. E.E. Broadwell and James W. Broadwell donated the land for the church.

The original Crabapple Cotton Gin, later an antique store (The Raven's Nest), has been remodeled and now houses several boutiques. A monument to all members of the Rucker family who have served in past wars stands in front of this building.

The original Broadwell store was housed in a two-story brick building which still stands at Crabapple Crossroads. John B. Broadwell, a well-respected local merchant and farmer, is credited with growing double-jointed cotton yielding three bales per acre.

#### *Fields Crossroads*

Fields Crossroads was named for Lawson Fields, the first State Senator from the area, who was instrumental in the formation of the original Milton County.

#### *240 Hickory Flat Road (Rowe House)*

This small 1840 farmhouse retains many of its original structural architectural features such as original windows, plank walls, and hardware. Some of the original barns remain on the property.

*Boiling Springs Primitive Baptist Church/Cemetery*

This church was founded on November 11, 1837 as Boiling Springs Baptist Church and renamed Boiling Springs Primitive Baptist Church on December 7, 1840. The church first convened in a log house. A frame house was built after the Civil War to replace the log house.

*Double Branch Voting District Courthouse*

Double Branch Voting District Courthouse is located near the southeast corner of the intersection of Birmingham Road and Freemanville Road. Elections were held in the structure until the mid 1900s. The courthouse was one of seven militia district courthouses in Milton County where trials were conducted by Justices of the Peace and, if necessary, bound over to the Superior Court.

*Hopewell House*

Located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Birmingham and Hopewell Roads, this is a good example of an Upper Piedmont Vernacular home constructed in the early 1800s. It includes two Parsons' Rooms and a painting featuring the Moravian Star of Bethlehem on one of the parlor ceilings, a possible link to the Moravian missionaries sweeping through Georgia in the 1820s.

*Providence Baptist Church*

Charter members of the church were Abner Phillips, Joseph Walker, and two servants. The first building was a small, one-room log structure, and the first service was held on December 20, 1834. The present church building was built circa 1860.

*Union Primitive Baptist Church*

Originally located at 1212 Houze Road near Rucker, this church was housed in a log structure until a new church was built on Cox road in 1874.

*The Castle*

This structure, located on the southeast corner of Arnold Mill Road and Cagle Road west of the Crabapple area, was built in the late 1970s. The 1700 SF stone building is surrounded by a miniature moat and is accessible only via miniature drawbridges. It was constructed using granite mined from quarries near Stone Mountain and Elberton, Georgia. The marble used was mined at the Georgia Marble Quarry in Tate, Georgia.

**Cultural Landmarks**

*Bethwell Community Center*

Located on Francis road west of the intersection with Cogburn Road. This center is currently closed pending renovation.

*Crabapple Community Center*

Located in the Crabapple Crossroads Area. This center is currently closed pending renovation.

**Archeological Landmarks**

There are no known significant archaeological landmarks in the City of Milton.

**Archeological Sites identified by Georgia DNR**

There are no archaeological sites in Milton identified by the Georgia DNR.

**Gateway Features**

The City of Milton is a unique city in the Atlanta Region and wishes to let visitors know that they have “arrived” in Milton. Currently, the City has special city limits signs along many roadway entrances to the City which feature the “galloping horse” municipal logo. While this serves as a basic reminder that one has entered Milton, the City should work to develop further gateway features which highlight points of entry into the community, especially along highway and scenic corridors and in urbanized areas.